

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 H-01 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN: TROESCH:EW
APPROVED BY EB/AN: JBMAGNOR
EA/K:PMAYHEW
CAB/ELBROWN

-----031625 004918 /45

P 031556Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR,SK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: KCAB RESTRICTS FLYING TIGER SCHEDULES

1. FTL HAS INFORMED DEPT. THAT FROM RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH KCAB, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT KCAB WILL NOT ALLOW FTL'S PROPOSED JULY 1977 ROUTE SCHEDULE. FTL PROPOSES TO OPERATE US - TOKYO - TAIPEI ON OUTBOUND LEG WITH ONE FLIGHT NUMBER AND TAIPEI - SEOUL - TOKYO - US ON INBOUND PORTION WITH DIFFERENT FLIGHT NUMBER. ACCORDING TO FTL, KCAB HOLDS THAT, FTL'S SCHEDULE WOULD VIOLATE BILATERAL BECAUSE FTL DOES NOT TOUCH KOREA ON OUTBOUND FLIGHT, IT CANNOT COME BACK THROUGH SEOUL ON RETURN FLIGHT.

2. FTL EXPLAINS THAT MOST FREIGHT IS CARRIED ON THE INBOUND FLIGHTS FROM ASIA TO THE US, AND TO HAVE ITS B747 AIRCRAFT ROUTED THROUGH SEOUL ON OUTBOUND LEG WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VERY UNECONOMICAL AS IT WOULD BE LARGELY EMPTY. UNDER PROPOSED ROUTING, US ORIGINATED FREIGHT FOR SEOUL WOULD BE CARRIED TO TAIPEI AND DISCHARGED AT SEOUL ON RETURN FLIGHT. EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THIS TYPE OF FLEXIBLE OPERATION IS COMMON TO ALL-CARGO AIR SERVICES WHICH IS OFTEN CHARACTERIZED BY A DIRECTIONAL IMBALANCE WITH RESPECT TO TRAFFIC FLOW. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, CARGO FROM

KOREA IS GREATER THAN CARGO FROM THE US AND TO REQUIRE FTL TO TOUCH SEOUL AND THE OUTBOUND FLIGHT WHEN IT IS VIRTUALLY EMPTY OF KOREAN DESTINED CARGO IS TO IMPOSE AN UNNECESSARY BUT COSTLY OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINT.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY VERIFY CIRCUMSTANCES WITH LOCAL FTL REP AND ROK OFFICIALS AND IF, AS PRESENTED ABOVE, SEEK FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM, DRAWING AS APPROPRIATE ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. KCAB INTERPRETATION OF BILATERAL APPEARS UNNECESSARILY RIGID IF NOT ALTOGETHER INCORRECT FROM TWO RELATED POINTS OF VIEW.

B. FIRST, AIRLINES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SERVE ALL POINTS LISTED IN A BILATERAL ROUTE DESCRIPTION AND ARE THEREFORE FREE TO OMIT POINTS FOR OPERATIONAL OR MARKETING REASONS. IN THE CASE OF FTL'S PROPOSED ROUTING, SEOUL WOULD BE OMITTED FROM THE US ROUTE (IN BOTH DIRECTIONS) OF "FROM THE US VIA POINTS IN JAPAN TO SEOUL AND BEYOND" IN THE OUTBOUND DIRECTION.

C. SECONDLY, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, AIRLINES ARE FREE TO OPERATE OVER AGREED ROUTES IN EITHER DIRECTION AND FTL THEREFORE MAY OPERATE TAIPEI (BEYOND)/SEOUL/JAPAN/US WITHOUT HAVING OPERATED THE MATCHING OUTBOUND FLIGHT.

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D. (IF KOREANS RAISE THE QUESTION OF DISCHARGE OF CARGO AT SEOUL ON FTL PROPOSED ROUTING) WHILE IT MAY POSSIBLY BE ARGUED THAT CARGO WHICH ACTUALLY ORIGINATED IN THE US TECHNICALLY BECOMES TAIWAN ORIGIN CARGO WITH A CHANGE OF FLIGHT NUMBER, THIS IS IRRELEVANT BECAUSE US AIRLINES HAVE TRAFFIC RIGHTS (FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS) BETWEEN POINTS INTERMEDIATE TO AND BEYOND SEOUL.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE047103
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TROESCH:EW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770073-0817
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770396/aaaadgtu.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d0338be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3217178
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: KCAB RESTRICTS FLYING TIGER SCHEDULES
TAGS: EAIR, SK
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d0338be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009